

Remarks**2. Claim 7 is objected to.**

Claim 7 is objected to as depending from itself, and is amended to depend from claim 1, as originally intended. No new matter is added.

3. Claims 1 – 11 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The antecedent basis for the phrase "the file" at original claim 1 line 22 is found in the phrase "for retrieving a selected digital content file" at original claim 1 lines 21 – 22. However, to insure there is no uncertainty, Claim 1 is amended to change the phrase "the file" to "the retrieved file."

Claim 1 is further amended to change the phrase "for sending the email and encoded attachment" to read "for sending an email and the encoded attachment."

Claims 2, 3, 4 and 5 are amended to improve clarity by changing the phrase "the keystroke sequence" to read "the reduced keyset keystroke sequence," which has an antecedent basis in the original claim 1 at line 7.

Claim 11 is amended to depend from claim 1, as originally intended. No new matter is added.

5. Claims 1 – 3 and 5 – 11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Dawson (U.S. 6,252,588 B1).

Briefly, claim 1 defines a networked system (see applicants' FIG. 19, element 1904) organized via a communications network to permit Internet appliances and a system server (FIG. 19, element 1908) to divide the task of creating email, storing and attaching digital content files to the created email, and sending the created email with attachments via the communications network to an external mail server (FIG. 19, element 1906). Each Internet appliance provides video/audio outputs compatible with a standard television receiver used for displaying user screens that are downloaded from the system server where the screens are stored. A user operates a reduced keyset keystroke sequence device (FIG. 9) to control selection of options displayed on the user screens via the television set, to create an email message, and to select digital content

files for attachment to an email. User screens and digital content files are stored at the system server (element 1908).

Dawson teaches a black box (Dawson FIG. 18, element 1801) that performs some of these same operations but that is not divided between a system server that stores user screens and digital content files and a simple appliance that handles the reduced keyset keystroke sequence device and interfaces with a television set. Everything is done in the same black box.

Thus, claim 1 organizes the system in a new and non-obvious manner that differs from the organization disclosed by Dawson.

An advantage of the claim 1 system over that disclosed by Dawson is that the claim 1 system concentrates much of the system functionality at the central server. This division of labor permits the Internet appliance to remain simple and inexpensive. The Dawson system, on the other hand, places all functionality within each black box, taking little or no advantage of the distributed system concept employed in the claim 1 system.

In the claim 1 system email is created at the appliances, but files that are to be attached are stored and the attachment is accomplished at the system server. The system server communicates with an Internet email server. The Dawson system, on the other hand, does all these things within the black box (Dawson FIG. 18, element 1801).

There appears to be nothing in Dawson suggesting the distributed system approach defined by claim 1. The prior art cited and not relied upon, when combined with Dawson, does not suggest the claim 1 system to a person having an ordinary level of skill in the art. The applicants believe their amended claim 1 is patentable over Dawson and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 – 11 depend directly or indirectly from the amended claim 1 and thus are believed to be patentable over Dawson. The applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn also.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dawson in view of Chang et al. (U.S. 6,598,076 B1).

The applicants rely upon their remarks above with respect to the patentability of claim 1 over the combined teachings of Dawson and the prior art cited and not relied upon.

Claim 4 depends indirectly from the amended claim 1. The combination of the teachings of Dawson, Chang, the prior art cited and not relied upon, and the ordinary level of skill in the art does not suggest the system of claim 1.

The applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

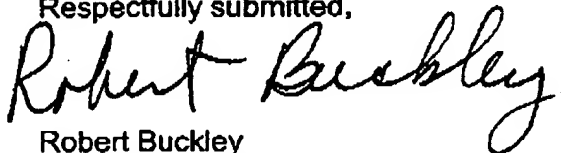
Prior art cited but not relied upon.

The applicants have considered each prior art reference cited but not relied upon.

Conclusion

The applicants have amended their claims to overcome the objections and rejections set forth by the Examiner and to correct minor errors discovered during a careful review. No new matter has been added. The applicants submit that their amended claims, in light of their remarks, are patentable, and request that the objections and rejections be withdrawn and their application be reconsidered and their claims be re-examined.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Robert Buckley
Reg. No. 33,657